

FINAL

**THIRD TAXING DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2006**

**ATTENDANCE:** David Brown, Chairman; Timothy Plunkett.

**STAFF:** George Leary, District Manager.

**OTHERS:** Stephen Orris; James Cunningham; Jack Goncalves; Paul Macari; Christopher Burr.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Plunkett suggested tabling several of the agenda items. Mr. Brown agreed.

**\*\* MR. BROWN MOTIONED TO HEAR AGENDA ITEMS 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 AND 16; ALL OTHERS TO BE TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.**

**\*\* MR. PLUNKETT SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jack Goncalves addressed the Commissioners regarding the proposed removal of the billboard at the East Norwalk railroad station. Mr. Goncalves was the real estate leasing manager for the billboard. Mr. James Cunningham stated that he has had billboards on his building since the 1950s and in all that time only one or two people made an issue out of the billboards. He said no one has ever made an issue out of the billboard at the railroad station and no one has ever complained about the signs. It is a private business arrangement on private property. He stated the Third Taxing District has no authority over private property, and if they start to get involved with private property issues, where do you draw the line? Mr. Brown stated that this should be discussed when Simon Sumberg attends the meeting. Mr. Macari said they have put up latticework, cleaned up the area around the billboards, and done it without any quid pro quo. He said he would be happy to come back and discuss it at another meeting.

Mr. Plunkett recommended switching items #7 and #16 to second and third on the agenda. Mr. Brown agreed.

## **2. MINUTES**

### **Minutes of March 20, 2006 meeting**

- \*\* MR. BROWN MOTIONED TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2006 TO THE NEXT MEETING.**
- \*\* MR. PLUNKETT SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. LAWN CARE**

Mr. Stephen Orris presented figures outlining bids he received on lawn care for the six parks in East Norwalk, including the Ludlow monument and adjacent area; Constitution Park; Ludlow Park (opposite cemetery); Shay's monument; the Third Taxing District headquarters; and the East Norwalk Cemetery. There was a discussion between Mr. Orris and the Commissioners regarding the figures Mr. Orris presented. Mr. Brown asked if Mr. Orris had spoken with Mr. Oman to inform him that they were dissatisfied with his work, and questioned the charges Mr. Oman presented for fertilizing the area. Mr. Leary said the area was mostly weeds and no grass. Mr. Orris asked if the Commissioners wanted to keep Mr. Oman on the job or find someone else at an increase of \$5,000. Mr. Plunkett said the question was do the electors care to pay an additional \$5,000 to maintain the grass, and his instinct was no. A lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Plunkett said he was more concerned about keeping the area trimmed and neat. Mr. Leary said they can have Mr. Oman do a better job. Mr. Plunkett recommended that Mr. Orris keep watch over Mr. Oman when he was working to assure that he does a better job. Mr. Orris said he will continue to seek other quotes for lawn care and get back to the Commission with them. Mr. Plunkett suggested he try to find at least one quote from someone who uses organic products, and recommended Mr. Orris develop a separate contract for mowing apart from the fertilizing and other work.

Until a lower bidder can be found, Mr. Brown and Mr. Plunkett agreed to continue with Mr. Oman's contract as already enforced.

Mr. Orris stated that tomorrow the ramp of the firehouse will be taken out and an entirely new apron will be created. He said the firefighters have agreed to use a different entrance and exit while this goes on, and the fire truck will be parked in an alternate location. He said they can't put the engine back before Monday. They will do the pour on Wednesday or Thursday and then it has to harden.

Mr. Orris said the gas boiler will be delivered on Friday and will be put downstairs. The actual piping and installation will be completed first. He said the gas boiler is replacing the oil furnace and as soon as the gas boiler is functioning normally they will remove the oil tanks. The oil delivery to the library has been stopped and the oil from the tank will be removed and put into

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the library tank. He said that any extra oil that can't go into the library tank could be delivered to N.E.O.N. or some other poor person in East Norwalk.

Mr. Plunkett suggested possibly donating the extra oil to a church, Malta House or some other organization like that instead of giving it to an individual family. He said he would rather see it go to something that serves the entire community. Mr. Brown said they should fill their tank with everything that it will take, and then give the excess, if any, to N.E.O.N. and let them decide how best to dispose of it. Mr. Orris said he will bring his figures to the May meeting and they can discuss what to do with any excess oil at that time.

### **3. GRIEVANCE APPEALS – LYONS, MITCHELL**

Mr. Leary's recommendation is to deny Mr. Lyons' grievance. He said the Gaylord Hospital report is not contradicted and that there is a 1% disability for one thing, and a 3% disability for something else. Mr. Plunkett said he hasn't seen anything to indicate that Mr. Leary's warning to Mr. Lyons was factually incorrect and there was a reason for the warning. He said that on March 20, 2001, Mr. Tenore and Mr. Chariott did a time study, and the longest anything takes is four hours.

- \*\* MR. BROWN MOTIONED TO UPHOLD THE GENERAL MANAGER'S WARNING TO MR. LYONS.**
- \*\* MR. PLUNKETT SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Brown said that the Mitchell grievance decision has been made on April 11, 2006 but that he would motion to uphold the general manager's position on the Mitchell decision if they were going to take action on it. No action was taken.

### **5. LINE CREW STAFFING**

Mr. Leary said he had asked Bill Rudeman if he knew of anyone who might be interested in taking this on. He said when he asked to have this item put on the agenda he thought he would have a recommendation, but he did not.

No action was taken on this item.

### **4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND OPERATING REPORTS**

Mr. Leary reported that the CBIA will be doing sexual harassment training tomorrow. The financial statement shows that they are doing very, very well although January was a bad month because it was warm, but it seemed to even out from there.

**a) Headstone Restoration**

Mr. Chris Burr reported that he has received several price quotes for headstone restoration and presented them to the Commissioners. He said there is \$7,000 in the budget for headstone restoration. The quotes for restoration would be based on how much it would cost to cut down the trees in the area. Mr. Burr said no vote would be needed since the cost was under \$5,000. There was a brief discussion regarding the trees in the East Norwalk Cemetery that were to be cut down.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. BROWN MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**  
**\*\* MR. PLUNKETT SECONDED.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Hayes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**16. PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE**